

USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2)

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CRS Reports file
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PART I

CHRONOLOGY OF HIGHLIGHTS OF 1967

1 JAN - 8 FEB	ROH Charleston Naval Shipyard
9 - 11 FEB	Type Training Charleston
20 - 23 FEB	AAW Training Jacksonville
24 - 26 FEB	Visit Port Everglades, Florida
25 FEB	AFL/CIO SECNAV Guest Cruise
27 FEB - 3 MAR	ASW Exercises Virginia Capes
13 - 17 MAR	AAW Training Jacksonville
18 - 26 MAR	Missile Qualification Trials Training Caribbean
27 MAR - 8 MAY	Refresher Training Guantanamo Bay
9 - 12 MAY	Visit San Juan, Puerto Rico
9 - 11 JUNE	Embarked Midshipmen Norfolk
12 - 22 JUNE	Fleet Exercise MIDLANTRARON
23 - 25 JUNE	Visit San Juan, Puerto Rico
1 - 4 JULY	Visit Houston, Texas
18 - 27 AUG	Enroute Mediterranean

29 AUG	Turnover Pollensa Bay, Mallorca
2 - 8 SEPT	Visit Valencia, Spain
13 SEPT	Naval Gunfire exercises Filfla Rock, Malta
14 - 22 SEPT	Visit Valetta, Malta
25 - 30 SEPT	OPERATION EAGER BEAVER
7 - 16 OCT	Visit Barcelona, Spain
17 - 26 OCT	SIXTH Fleet Operations
27 - 29 OCT	Anchored Argostoli Bay, Greece
31 OCT - 5 NOV	Visit Brindisi, Italy
6 - 13 NOV	SIXTH Fleet Operations
14 NOV	OPERATION QUICKDRAW
17 - 19 NOV	Anchored St. Paul's Bay, Malta
20 - 26 NOV	Visit Valetta, Malta
29 NOV	SIXTH Fleet Commanders Conference, Taranto, Italy
4 - 11 DEC	Visit La Ciotat, France
13 - 15 DEC	OPERATION LAFAYETTE
18 DEC	ORI, Aranci Bay, Sardinia
21 - 22 DEC	Anchored Aranci Bay, Sardinia
23 DEC - 2 JAN	Visit Cannes, France

PART II

BASIC NARRATIVE

New Years Day 1967, the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS was in the Charleston, South Carolina Naval Shipyard undergoing a seven month major overhaul. Through the determination and hard work of the officers, men and shipyard workers the CHARLES F. ADAMS completed overhaul on schedule, 8 February, the first combatant ship of the Atlantic Fleet to achieve this objective in over three consecutive years.

The overhaul was extensive and expensive. In addition to a 1,960,000 dollar repair package and many minor alterations, there were four major alterations. These were: Installation of the TARTAR missile "daily system operability test capability" (DSOT); installation of the "test reliability and maintenance system" (TRAM) for improved sonar operation and maintenance; expansion of the air conditioning system to most electronic and missile control spaces; and a complete modernization and expansion of communications equipment and spaces. The most significant repair was a complete rebuilding of all boiler cases and renewal of most boiler generating and super heat tubes.

No time was wasted in getting back to sea. After loading missiles and ammunition at the Charleston Weapons Station on 9 February, the ship commenced at sea training in the Charleston operation area. Since forty percent of the crew had no previous sea experience, training was necessarily slow, but progress was made and the ship moved south to the Jacksonville, Florida area for basic AAW training.

A welcomed interlude from basic training was enjoyed by visiting Fort Lauderdale, Florida for several days commencing 24 February. During this period the CHARLES F. ADAMS was host to the AFL/CIO National Executive Council for a special Secretary of the Navy one day Guest Cruise. Although the seas were rough, the Nations Labor Leaders were impressed by the weapons demonstrations and seemed to thoroughly enjoy their day at sea.

ASW exercises at Virginia Capes from 27 February to 3 March was next on the schedule, and once again the CHARLES F. ADAMS demonstrated her capabilities as a sub-killer in unrestricted exercises with the USS NAUTILUS (SS(N)-571). The ship then returned to Charleston on 4 March for a week during which she successfully completed her Nuclear Weapons Acceptance Inspection.

Prior to commencing refresher training, the CHARLES F. ADAMS was required to demonstrate a fully ready missile capability. This she did by successfully intercepting three drones with TARTAR missiles on the Atlantic Fleet Missile Range, off Puerto Rico during the week of 18-26 March.

Thence, the ship sailed to Guantanamo Bay Cuba arriving 26 March where she commenced a six week refresher training period under the auspices of Fleet Training Group, Guantanamo.

The CHARLES F. ADAMS did well at Guantanamo. She established a three year record in damage control, which stood until another Destroyer Division 62 ship, the USS SEMMES broke this mark only two months latter; and she just missed establishing an all time high in all phases of engineering by scoring an overall 94.6 percent. On her Operational Readiness Inspection conducted on the last day of training, 8 May, the lowest mark assigned in any phase or division of ship readiness was a "good", with the heavy accent on "excellents" and "outstandings".

Before returning to Charleston on 15 May, CHARLES F. ADAMS visited San Juan, Puerto Rico, and once again on 11 May made use of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range for more successful missile firings.

The month of June was very active. The ship was in Norfolk, Virginia, on the 9th where 35 Naval Academy Midshipmen embarked. The Midshipmen Training Cruise was integrated into a major SECOND Fleet exercise which included missile firings off Cherry Point, North Carolina, shore bombardment at Culebra Island, several multi-type ASW exercises and more missile firings in Exercise Freeplay with USS COLUMBUS and five other missile destroyers. CHARLES F. ADAMS once again did well by firing six missiles successfully at unrestricted targets.

San Juan again played host to the CHARLES F. ADAMS from 23 to 25 June. From 1 to 4 July the ship visited Houston, Texas, where the crew were special guests of the Houston ASTRO baseball team and participated in many Independence Day civic functions. All aboard thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Lone Star State.

On 18 August, CHARLES F. ADAMS, SEMMES, and TATTNALL set sail from Charleston for the Mediterranean. On the 29th, CHARLES F. ADAMS relieved the USS SAMPSON (DDG-10) at Pollensa Bay, Mallorca, and began a SIXTH Fleet five-month cruise as a unit of Task Group 60.1.

The first big exercise came after a port visit to Valencia, Spain from 2 to 8 September. The site was Filfla Rock, south of the island of Malta. Here the CHARLES F. ADAMS conducted Naval Gunfire Support exercises observed by The Royal Artillery and established a SIXTH Fleet shore bombardment record. Ironically, the previous high grade had been recorded by another DESDIV 62 ship, USS SEMMES.

The next port of call was Valetta, Malta, where the ship underwent a period of tender availability from 14 to 22 September. The host tender was USS YELLOWSTONE. There was also time to visit the island and learn of its history, its people, and its customs.

Then came NATO operation "EAGER BEAVER" from 25 to 30 September, the first major fleet exercise of the cruise in which CHARLES F. ADAMS received much needed training in anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare. The visit to Barcelona, Spain, which followed from 7 to 16 October was welcomed by all and the crew had no doubt that Barcelona is one of the best liberty ports in the Mediterranean. In comparison, the Italian port of Brindisi was rather quiet when the ship stopped there from 31 October to 5 November.

14 November was the date for "OPERATION QUICKDRAW," conducted in the Bay of Taranto. Fast Patrol Boat units of the Italian Navy simulated Soviet "Komar" boats in combat with USN units. CHARLES F. ADAMS did well that night and was credited with destroying four of the "enemy" units.

Before a second port call to Valetta, CHARLES F. ADAMS anchored in St. Paul's Bay, Malta, from 17 to 19 November. The following week was spent renewing old friendships and revisiting many of the historic sites on the island. From Malta, it was on to Taranto, Italy, where the Fleet Commanders Conference was held aboard USS ROOSEVELT on 29 November.

La Ciotat, France is a small shipbuilding port between Marseille and Toulon and until CHARLES F. ADAMS arrived on 4 December, no U.S. Navy ship had visited here since World War II. The reception was an unusually warm one and the townspeople and city government officials went out of their way to welcome the officers and men of the CHARLES F. ADAMS. The ship received good publicity and many visitors.

OPERATION LAFAYETTE, a joint French-American exercise, was the last fleet exercise in which the ship participated in 1967. The combination of AAW and ASW action encountered here put all the years training to the test and once again, CHARLES F. ADAMS showed that she could handle the job.

The Southern Coast of France and the town of Cannes was the scene of Christmas and New Year for the CHARLES F. ADAMS. Away from home and family, the men looked forward to the end of the cruise, only one month away. In retrospect they could look back with pride. In a year in which they saw homeport only three months, the CHARLES F ADAMS successfully completed every assigned and unassigned mission and task without a major casualty. Particularly noteworthy was the lack of a single main propulsion casualty and the operational readiness and reliability of the weapons systems.